



We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

News from the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA

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Tuesday, August 25, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YMCA CREATES KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

"We knew we had to open our day care center now, in advance of the new YMCA opening because there was a community need," says Molly Brown, director of child care programs for the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA. "We do know that some Kindergarten kids only attend class either 2 days per week or just attend half-day programs, and that's why we've also added our YMCA Kindergarten Enrichment Program."

The Kindergarten Enrichment Program is exclusively designed for 5 year olds that are attending some form of part-time Kindergarten program. The YMCA with its new Child Care facility at 1100 Woodmere in Traverse City provides the ideal venue for this new program. "We have a big gym along with the 9,600 sq.ft. facility with the philosophy that learning should be fun," Brown exclaimed enthusiastically.

The centerpiece of the program beyond facility is the curriculum which consists of age appropriate learning opportunities; fitness readiness program; arts & crafts; sports play; and quiet games. The curriculum is bolstered by a values-based Judeo-Christian approach to teaching and care. "We have an outstanding staff that works with our children," said Brown.

The YMCA Child Care program is state licensed in its facility, program, and staff. Nationally, the YMCA is the largest provider of day care services.

"Because of the generosity of contributors to our *Invest in Youth Appeal*, we are able to provide scholarships to our child care program participants so that no one is denied this great YMCA program," according to Tom Van Deinse, CEO of the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA. "We are always seeking donations to help the great need."

The new Kindergarten Enrichment Program runs school days from 6:30 am – 3:00 pm. Registration is \$35 per day. Breakfast and a morning snack is provided. Participants are asked to bring a lunch.

For more information contact Molly Brown directly at 421-3568, e-mail at childcare@gtbayymca.org, or our website listing this and our over 65 different programs at www.gtbayymca.org.